

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**INFORMATION FROM**

**FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS**

COUNTRY                    USSR - Georgian SSR

SUBJECT            Economic - Fruit growing

HOW PUBLISHED Weekly periodical

WHERE PUBLISHED **Moscow**

DATE  
PUBLISHED Jan. 1949

LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION

DATE DIST. **11 May 1945**

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Ogonek, No 3, 1949.

**CITRUS GROWING PUSHED NORTH;**  
**GEORGIAN SSR TO PLAY BIG ROLE**

Z. N. Chkhubiashvili

Subtropical cultivation is to be extended to areas north of the Georgian SSR, according to a recent government decree. There are at present 22,000 hectares of citrus plantations in the Georgian Republic, with 4,500 hectares of lemon and orange plantations to be added in 1949. Georgian citrus fruit growers are scheduled to produce more than 60 million pieces of fruit during 1949.

The first plantings of the subtropical cultivations in the new areas were to take place in the spring of 1949. For these plantings Georgia was to give 300,000 lemon sets, 100,000 mandarin sets, 300,000 eucalyptus plants, 50 kilograms of eucalyptus seed, and 700 kilograms of trifoliate /a subtropical plant/ seed. In the spring of 1950, Georgia must supply new areas with 500,000 lemon sets, 200,000 orange sets, 300,000 mandarin sets, 2 million eucalyptus sets, one ton of trifoliate seed, 150 kilograms of eucalyptus seed, and also sets of persimmons, pomegranates, figs, and other plants. The kolkhozes of Krasnoyarsk Krai have already received 81,000 citrus and persimmon sets from the Adzhariya plant nursery gardens. Altogether 140 kolkhozes of the republic are raising sets for planting.

The winter of 1948-49 has unusually abrupt temperature fluctuations which complicated caring for the citrus sets, yet Georgian citrus growers have already given and are expected to provide many more excellent sets.

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Methods of working the soil and principles of cultivation are studied and learned on the kolkhoz citrus plantations in the laboratories of institutes and scientific centers. Workers of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Subtropical Plants in the city of Makharadze instruct the workers about plant biology, agricultural engineering of citrus cultivation, and ways to protect plants from diseases and harmful insects. Workers also learn methods of selection and means of cultivating citrus plants.

One plantation in the village of Natanebi has grown huge orange trees, each of which gives as many as 10,000 oranges. Abkhaziya in Crimean Oblast has a lemon plant distinguished by its resistance to frost. This variety will be especially suitable for future plantations on the southern shore of Crimea.

In Uzbekistan, tea as well as citrus fruits will be raised. The most experienced Georgian tea growers have instructed the Uzbekistan workers in this art.

Makharadzevskiy Rayon is one of the most important citrus-growing areas in Georgia. Citrus and tea plantations are now found on an area formerly covered by swamps, drained during the Five-Year Plans. In 1940 Makharadze kolkhoz workers gave 45 million citrus fruits and in 1948 about 90 million citrus fruits to the government. Makharadze workers have a great deal of experience in the cultivation of citrus fruits, and have themselves pledged to give the government 10,000 lemon and mandarin trees above the amount stated in the plan.

Until the present time Georgia has been considered the northern extremity of the citrus-growing area. Soviet science, however, is determining new boundaries for it: lemons will now ripen on open ground south of Odessa, orange groves will bloom in Krasnodar, and mandarin plantations will surround Simferopol.

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